

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on October 16, 2003. Claims 1, 6, 10, and 11 are amended based upon disclosure in lines 20-36 on page 7 of the specification. New claims 14 and 15 correspond to claims 6 and 10 before the present amendment thereof, but additionally recite features shown in Figures 2A and 2B, as discussed for instance in the paragraph bridging pages 6-7 of the specification. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 14, and 15 are in the application.

Claims 1, 6, 10, and 11 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4,945,269 (Kamm) in view of US 6,191,510 (Landin). Inasmuch as Kamm fails to disclose burrs and Landin fails to disclose the deburring procedure of the present invention, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner acknowledges that the Kamm reference fails to show a yoke component wherein there is no burr of 0.1 mm or greater in thickness on any ridgeline of said finely machined portion of said yoke component. Office Action, page 3. The Examiner relies on the Landin reference as allegedly teaching the absences of burrs as small as 0.1 mm. Landin, however, relates to cores made from combinations of laminate sections.

Landin teaches as follows:

The laminate sections when joined together may optionally have pressure applied thereto. ... [The described] method should be done in a manner that limits the bulging of any burr away from the plane of the side of the core to minimize any potential side burr creation such as bulges which could cause damage to wires when wound around the stator core.

Column 17, lines 31-42. The Landin reference teaches nothing with respect to burrs on ridge lines of *finely machined portions* of voice coil motor yoke components. It follows that Landin teaches absolutely nothing with respect to shearing burrs or whisker-like burrs, as recited in claims 14 and 15.

Landin is concerned with bulging burrs which may damage wires. In contrast, as discussed in the specification from line 35 on page 1 through line 33 on page 2, the present invention removes burrs, *e.g.*, shearing burrs or whisker-like burrs, on ridge lines of finely machined portions of the specified articles to avoid the dropping of burrs which may interfere with data recorded in a hard disk. "These burrs adhering on the surface of the yoke component do not necessarily remain adhering thereon but may be easily dropped therefrom due to physical or chemical causes." Page 2, lines 9-12.

Thus, inasmuch as Landin is concerned with a different kind of burr (pressure-generated bulging burrs rather than burrs such as machining-generated shearing or whisker-like burrs), and solves a different problem (avoiding damage to wires rather than avoiding burrs being dropped onto

hard disks), the modification of Kamm in view of Landin still does not provide the present invention.

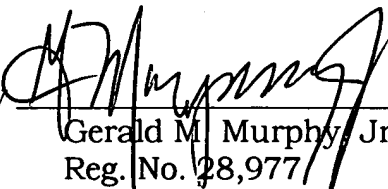
Accordingly, the rejection based upon Kamm in view of Landin is not sustainable with respect to claims 1, 6, 10, 11, 14, and 15 herein. The Examiner has failed to establish a *prima case* of obviousness with respect to the presently claimed improvement.


Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr.
Reg. No. 28,977

GMM/RG 

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000